



PATENT
Docket No. 5000-4964

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Katsuyoshi FUJITA, et al.
Serial No. : 09/977,859 Group Art Unit: 1742
Filed : October 15, 2001 Examiner: George P. Wyszomierski
For : METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING HYDROGEN STORAGE
TANKS

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 5, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 9, 19 and 20 to read as follows:

1.(Once Amended) A method comprising:

9, disposing a substantially solid block of hydrogen-absorbing alloy within an activation vessel,

introducing hydrogen gas into the activation vessel under conditions that will cause the hydrogen-absorbing alloy to absorb hydrogen and crack or break apart, thereby forming a substantially powdered hydrogen-absorbing alloy,

evacuating a hydrogen-storage tank, and

transferring the substantially powdered hydrogen-absorbing alloy from the activation vessel to the hydrogen storage tank without substantially exposing the powdered hydrogen-absorbing alloy to oxygen.

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02 FC:1202